

MUSIC AS A MEDICINE.

ITS POWER EFFECTUAL IN REMEDY-
ING NERVOUS DISORDERS.

Patients at Randall's Island, Under the
Influence of Music, Show Various
Changes of Medical Condition—The
Medical Musical Society Interested.

Several New York medical men are investigating music as an auxiliary in the treatment and management of certain nervous complaints, and one of them, Sebastian J. Wimmer, President of the Medical Musical Society, has gone so far as to suggest a place for "the soothing language" in the materia medica because, he says, it is a remedy for such complaints as neurasthenia, insomnia and nervous prostration. Dr. Wimmer can explain the action of music on the human body scientifically, and he is able to demonstrate its power on the development and functional play of the moral and intellectual faculties.

His conclusions are as follows: (1) That there is a music which has a special action on the intelligence and on the motor nerves. (2) That there is a music which influences particularly the nerves of sensibility and the sentiments. (3) That there is a music which acts all on once on the motor nerves and on the sensitive nerves, on the intelligence and on the sentiments. He further believes that between the effects of music and those of the ailments which modify the nervous system there are close analogies that the laws which regulate the one and the other may be arranged in the same terms.

Slow, monotonous music, explains Dr. Wimmer, provided it is not too cheerful, has a calming influence on the individual, because it is then in harmony with the nerve habit of the person who listens. It is essential to the ultimate success of any endeavor to bring the brain under control that the music should first arrest the attention either by its power or sweetness, and then gradually conduct the organism into harmony with itself. Unless a measured cadence begins with a powerful appeal to the brain in a key which accords with that in which the cerebrum is at the moment itself working a negative result will ensue, and instead of allaying irritation the irritation is more likely to be augmented. To arouse the spirits by music plaintive sound is required, and this must be in the key of melancholy which blends in harmony with the brain state of the patient.

Some curious experiments were made among the insane patients at Randall's Island the other day. Four hundred women were congregated in the entertainment hall of the institution and subjected to a strain of piano music for half an hour. The general effects were noted as follows: The pulse was raised, the patients became restless and there was a marked desire to keep time with the music. Every patient was susceptible to the rhythm, and its effect was decidedly stimulating. Melody without any very decided or certain tempo was without effect except in those cases where the force of association was still active.

In a case of chronic melancholia the playing of "Home, Sweet Home," invariably brought the patient to her knees, where she began to recite the Lord's Prayer in an apparent ecstasy of devotion. In another case—one of acute mania—the patient's pulse was elevated from 78 to 106 beats, the patient not showing any other signs of excitement save the involuntary twitching of the facial muscles. Cantabile music seemed to have an effect in the worst cases similar to that which it exercises upon certain animals, the person being disposed to lie down and go to sleep under its influence.

The results of all these experiments were markedly beneficial. Many of the patients showed great improvement. The effects in almost every instance of the pronounced rhythm were involuntary, the movements of the limbs and facial muscles being attributed to reflex action.

Whether or not music deserves to have an official place in the materia medica as a medicine, it certainly stamps itself upon the sensitive nerve organism of the individual, refreshing and stimulating it, and thus paving the way to mollifying the effects of many complaints.

Tobacco a Herb of Sanctity.

Since the world-wide diffusion of the tobacco habit, its earliest and perhaps original use has been in a great measure overlooked. With the aborigines of America smoking and its kindred practices were not mere sensual gratifications, but tobacco was regarded as an herb of peculiar and mysterious sanctity, and its use was deeply and intimately interwoven with native rites and ceremonies. With reasonable certainty the pipe may be considered as an implement the use of which was originally confined to the priest, medicine man or sorcerer, in whose hands it was a means of communication between savage men and the unseen spirits with which his universal doctrine of animism invested every object that came under his observation. Similar to this use of the pipe was its employment in the treatment of disease, which in savage philosophy is always thought to be the work of evil spirits. Tobacco is also regarded as an offering of peculiar acceptability to the unknown power, in whose hands the Indian conceived his fate for good or ill to lie; hence it is observed to figure prominently in ceremonies as incense and as material for sacrifice.

Male and Female Population.

The male population of the world is falling further and further behind the female. Thus, according to the last British census, the excess of women and girls over men and boys in Great Britain is about 900,000, an increase in ten years of nearly 200,000. The German census of last December places the number of females about 600,000 above that of the males in the kingdom of Prussia, or nearly three times the excess twenty years ago. There are 1,000,000 more females than males in the whole German Empire. In Sweden and Norway the "weaker sex" are in the majority by 250,000. In Austria-Hungary by 600,000, in Denmark by 60,000, and in every European country they outnumber the males. In the United States, Canada and Australia the males are in the majority, though not largely so, the estimated excess of males in this country being only 1,100,000 or 1,200,000.

WEALTH PRODUCERS.

A Few Inventors Have Furnished Increased Wealth to All.

In this age the majority of single products are produced by great numbers of men, and one cannot say, in a literal sense, than any one man produces any one thing. According to W. M. Mallock, in the North American Review, the same number of men who, in the United States, in the year 1840, produced wealth to the value of \$1,000,000,000 per year, are producing this present year wealth to the value of \$2,300,000,000. In proportion to the number of producers the product has been more than doubled, while if the inquiry is carried back to 1800 the then product is now trebled. This increase in the productivity of the same number of producers must be due to some cause or causes which are in operation now, and which were not in operation then. These causes are scientific invention and discovery, and improved methods of dividing and applying labor. These improvements are not the work of chance, or of nature, but the result of the deliberate and persistent action of a few men, and the millions said to be due to the improvements are really due to these men by whom the improvements were introduced. These men, who are a very small minority, correspond, broadly speaking, with the wealthier classes, and out of every hundred million dollars produced in the United States to-day these men produce at least \$66,000,000. Instead of the riches of the few being taken from the products of the many the present competence of the many is taken from the products of the few, who produce the whole of the wealth which they enjoy, and also every increase of wealth which is, year by year, enjoyed by the many. Labor is the industrial exertion of a single man on some single piece of work only. Ability is the industrial exertion of a single man which affects simultaneously the labor of many men, multiplying and improving the results of it in each case. There is an inventive ability and an ability of enterprise and capital, which is the economically saved creation of past ability. Interest is the sum paid by ability for the use of capital to the owners of capital. That labor plays a subordinate part in production in no way casts a slur on the general qualities of the laborer. Wealth is a laborer may be far superior as a man to the man on whose industrial ability he is absolutely dependent as a laborer. He should not long remain thus dependent, but by co-operation should gain ability to manage his share of the world's work, if necessary to total freedom. But an accurate study of the daily work of the world will show that the few, however inferior morally, produce the larger part of the wealth of the modern world; that wealth is not, as commonly said, the result of social labor only, but is the result of social labor multiplied by ability; and whatever claims the public may have on the wealth of the minority, that claim cannot be sustained on the ground that the public has produced this wealth, for the minority as a body have not only produced the whole of it, but a vast amount besides, which the public has already appropriated.

The Anatomy of the Oyster.

A clam is considered as an emblem of stupidity and callousness. But you will make a great mistake if you put the oyster in the same category as when you class a Chinaman and Japanese together. The oyster is so strong of muscle, as we all know, that no human fingers are able alone to open the doors of his domicile if he chooses to keep them closed; liver and stomach and digestive organs he has, all as sensitive as ours; respiratory organs as complicated as the human lungs; machinery for obtaining his water supply and for preventing an overflow, and wondrously contrived mechanism for the trapping of his food. Finally, he has a heart whose pulsations may be seen after his house has been torn from him. With this very limited understanding of the anatomy of the oyster, it is not difficult to comprehend how cultivation and care may not only improve its outward appearance, but augment its lines of beauty, but how they also cause the quality of its meat to surpass that of the "natural" or uncultivated oyster, as much as grain-fed poultry surpasses the product of the barnyard. When your host places before you oysters that are plump and round and thick and deep and light-colored, and mantled narrowly by a fringe quite thick to the very edge, then you may be sure that they have not only lived with few disturbances, but under a high state of cultivation.

Above the Clouds.

One of the sublimest effects in nature is occasionally seen by those who climb the tall and isolated peaks of the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. The dryness of the air and the strong heat of the afternoon sun cause a rapid evaporation from the brooks, springs, and the snowbanks on the mountain sides, and this moisture, rising on the warmer air, condenses as it reaches the cooler, thinner atmosphere about the mountain top. The traveler looking down sees clouds literally forming below him and growing thick and black every instant, so that as they reach his level they roll skyward and in huge masses of vapor eclipse the view and bury him in darkness. Lightning occasionally leaps from the clouds, and a mountain top is a particularly bad place to be at such a time. The stone signal service station on Pike's Peak has been nearly wrecked by lightning more than once.

When Beards Were Taxed.

In the reign of Elizabeth every beard of a fortnight's growth was subject to a tax of 3s. 4d. Peter the Great, in 1705, imposed a tax upon the beards of the Russian nobles of 100 rubles, while the common people's beard tax amounted to one kopeck. This tax caused much dissipation, but in spite of this the impost was extended to St. Petersburg in 1714. The tax on beards was confirmed by Catherine I. in 1762. In France a beard tax was imposed upon the clergy. The celebrated Duprat, Lord High Chancellor of France, was the adviser of the measure, and a bill was published by the Pope enjoining the clergy to shave their chins, and then a tax was levied upon all who wished to be exempted from the harsh decree. The bishops and others who could afford the means paid the tax, but the poorer clergy were obliged to yield at the point of the razor.

Uncle Sam Not Concerned.

A Washington dispatch states that the only American living in Siam, as far as the State Department is informed, are missionaries, of whom there are perhaps twenty. It is not believed to be necessary to take special measures for their protection. The commercial interests of Americans in Siam are comparatively insignificant.

New York's Free Baths.

The first bath in New York city are so popular that returns to July 25 indicate that they will be used by 5,000,000 persons this season. There are fifteen baths located at convenient points along the North and East Rivers. They are managed by the city and employ forty-nine men and thirty-two women.

Silver and Gold.

Shipments of silver from New York to London were the heaviest in the world for some months. Gold also continues to come in considerable quantity from London.

HOME RULE TRIUMPH.

REMARKABLE SCENE PRECEDING THE
PAUSAGE OF THE BILL.

Tories and Irish Come to Blows—Black
Eyes and Bloody Noses Galore—All Be-
cause O'Connor Called Chamberlain a
"Judas"—The Bill Finally Completed.

London, Aug. 1.—All England has been stirred by the scenes of violence that characterized the debate over the final amendments to the Home Rule bill. The papers have been full of it. The Tory organs idly attempted to place upon Mr. Gladstone responsibility for a result that they have for weeks sought to incite, and which Mr. Chamberlain did finally succeed in provoking.

The scene in the House of Commons preceding the passage of the final sections of Mr. Gladstone's bill were unprecedented in British legislation. Closure having been set to the debate, John Chamberlain, for the North Dublin county, moved an amendment to the effect that the imperial government should guarantee to Ireland 500,000 pounds annually during the provisional period of six years. Mr. Gladstone declined to accept the amendment. Joseph Chamberlain said the government had stood for its friends and foes alike, ready to let fall the guillotine without regard for justice or constitutional rights. Never since the time of Henry has there been such a scene in the House. Mr. Chamberlain got no further. Immediately there came from the Nationalists such a roar of indignation as has not been heard in the days of Parnell.

T. P. O'Connor sprang to his feet, and leaning towards Mr. Chamberlain, shouted "Judas" so loudly that the epithet could be heard throughout the House.

Chairman Mellor tried to put the closure, but his voice could not be heard amid the shouts of the Irish and the Unionists. Then came a scene unprecedented in parliamentary history. The Conservatives refused to quit the House for the division, but demanded that the chairman first take down O'Connor's words. The Tories crowded, shouting, toward the chairman's bench, but were intercepted by the Irish members. The pushing and struggling soon came to blows. Somebody knocked Tim Healy's hat over his eyes, and he retaliated by knocking Mr. Hanbury over a bench.

A free fight then began at the top of the gangway. The center of it was William Redmond, Parnellite, who had taken advantage of the general license to push over Col. Sanderson, the champion of the men of Ulster. Sanderson was rescued, and led an attack on the Parnellites. Blows were struck right and left. Members fell, and were picked up by their friends to fight again. Whole benches were filled with a struggling, cursing mob of members, striking, claving and upsetting each other. The sergeant-at-arms vainly tried to pacify the contestants. Finally Mr. Gladstone begged Mr. Edward Marjoribanks, a sturdy Liberal, to do something to stop the fighting. Mr. Marjoribanks dug his way through the tangled mass of belligerents, and by repeated appeals in the name of the premier, succeeded in stemming the conflict. Col. Sanderson came out of the fight with a black eye. Other members were bruised, rumpled and bleeding. Speaker Peel was sent for and finally brought the House to order.

Mr. O'Connor was directed to apologize, and did so. The House then divided on the final amendments. When the committees rose and Chairman Mellor reported to Speaker Peel, presiding over the House, the Home Rule bill, as amended in committee, cheer after cheer was given, and all hands waved for Mr. Gladstone. The Liberals and Irish, who were answered by the Unionists with counter cheers. The report was fixed for August 7.

While Going to the Fair.

Cuyahoga Falls, O., July 25.—The second section of the Baltimore and Ohio express, west bound, was wrecked one mile east of Monroe Falls about 4:30 this morning. Spreading of rails caused the wreck at a point where there is a sharp curve in the track. Five of the coaches, loaded with passengers, most of whom were on their way to Chicago, were thrown down a ten-foot embankment. Nobody was killed outright, but thirty persons were injured, five of them seriously. All of the maimed were taken to Akron by special train and sent to the city hospital. About a dozen doctors from Akron went down with them.

International Yacht Race.

The America's Cup Committee has decided that the series of races for the America's cup will begin on October 5. This date was selected some time ago, but Lord Dunsany wrote and asked that if possible the races take place in September, as the end of October was a bad time for the Valkyrie to make the return trip across the ocean to England. The Cup Committee, after due consideration, decided not to change the date to September, as requested.

Runaway Engine Kills Two Men.

Houston, Texas, July 25.—An engine escaped from the yards of the Southern Pacific Railroad here last night without engineer or fireman, and went east at a terrific rate of speed. It crashed into the rear end of a freight train going in the same direction and smashed thirty cars. Conductor Harrison and brakeman Watson were killed.

Shrewd Mr. Gladstone.

London, Aug. 2.—The Tories are in evident alarm over rumors as to Mr. Gladstone's shrewd programme. According to reports, now that Mr. Gladstone has practically carried the Home Rule bill through the Commons, he will not hurry in sending it to the House of Lords. Instead, he will take up some important English and Scotch reform measures, and get them well under way before a dissolution is declared. The plan is to get public sentiment on his side before allowing another election.

Tramps in the Hudson Valley.

Poughkeepsie, July 25.—There seems to be an extraordinary movement of tramps southward along the lines of the West Shore and New York Central and Hudson River Railroads. On the Central, Sunday night, Chief Humphrey and his men bagged seventeen who were riding on freight trains. The seventeen in jail here will be closely watched and inspected on the chance of their being some important crooks among them.

CAME BACK TO LIFE.

It Took Two Trials to Kill Murderer Taylor at Auburn.

The execution at Auburn, N. Y., state prison, during the past week, of William G. Taylor, who was sentenced to die in the electric chair for the murder of a fellow convict in Clinton prison, caused almost as great a sensation as the execution of Kemmer, three years ago. After the usual preparations, Taylor was seated in the death chair, and the current turned on. The moment the full voltage was switched into his body the rigidity of the muscles became so great that the front supports to the chair, to which his legs were strapped, were torn from their fastenings and fell upon the floor with a clatter. When the current ceased, the body fell back from its rigid position, and strange sounds and saliva came from the mouth of the victim, which was not entirely concealed by the death mask. There was evidently a spasmodic attempt to breathe, and the warden ordered the electrician to remove the current. To the surprise of all, no current came.

It was a dilemma. The labored breathing of the victim continued, and his chest rose and fell convulsively. The body had assumed a reclining posture in the chair, with the legs stretched well out upon the floor. Mr. Davis tried his lever again, but still no response. Taylor was now breathing regularly, but sentimentally, and those who did not know that he was unconscious expected to hear him cry out. It was learned that the arms and legs had been burned out. It could be used no more during the day. The straps were removed from Taylor, a cot was brought in and he was lifted upon it and carried into the next room. He was now groaning aloud and moving his head from side to side. His eyes were closed, but his features were not distorted from pain. Taylor's pulse grew stronger, and his breathing seemed less labored. He attempted to rise from his cot. It was necessary for the keepers to pin his arms and legs. Dr. Conway gave him a hypodermic injection of morphine to quiet his struggles. He was asked if the patient would recover with sufficient time, and he replied, "Most assuredly."

It became necessary to use anaesthetics upon Taylor to prevent his returning to consciousness. Meantime, it had been found that the dynamo was useless, and immediate steps were taken to make connection with the city electric light plant. This took nearly an hour, when Taylor was borne to the death chair, strapped in, and the current again turned on. He died instantly after the second shock.

Electrician Davis was asked to explain the failure of the dynamo. He replied that it was simply the burning out of the armature, something that could not be foreseen, and yet was liable to happen to any dynamo. The attending physicians decided that Taylor felt no pain after the first electric shock.

COL. AINSWORTH INDICTED.

He and Others Held Responsible for the Ford Theatre Disaster.

Washington, July 25.—Col. Ainsworth and others must stand trial for the loss of lives in the Ford Theatre disaster. The Grand Jury of the District of Columbia has found a true bill against Frederick C. Ainsworth, chief of the Record and Pension Division of the War Department; George W. Dant, the contractor employed to make the excavation for the electric light plant; William E. Covert, superintendent, and Francis Sasse, engineer of the building, for being responsible for the Ford Theatre disaster, by which twenty-three lives were lost and a large number injured.

The indictment describes in detail the excavations that were in progress for the purpose of putting in an electric light plant at the time of the accident, and avers that Ainsworth, Dant, Covert and Sasse undertook the performance of this work, and being wholly unskillful of their duty removed the earth supporting the pier without having first caused the pier to be relieved by shoring from the great pressure upon it of the weight of iron columns, iron beams, cross beams and parts of the floors immediately above it. By reason of this most culpable negligence the pier sank and broke, precipitating parts of the second and third floors with their occupants to the ground. The Grand Jury then formally find that in the manner described in the indictment the accused did willfully kill and slay the persons whose deaths are under investigation. It is understood that Col. Ainsworth and the other defendants will not be arraigned for some days yet, as their trial cannot take place before the September term of the court.

Eric Has a Receiver.

New York, July 27.—For the fourth time in its history the Erie Railroad has passed into the hands of a receiver.

Receivership proceedings against the New York, Lake Erie and Western Railway were brought before Judge Lacombe in the United States Circuit Court by Trenor Lefgar Park, son of Thomas W. Park, who is a holder of first and second mortgage bonds. The receiver's bonds are fixed at \$500,000. It is estimated that the floating debt of the road is between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000. The receiver's appointed were President King and Mr. McCullough.

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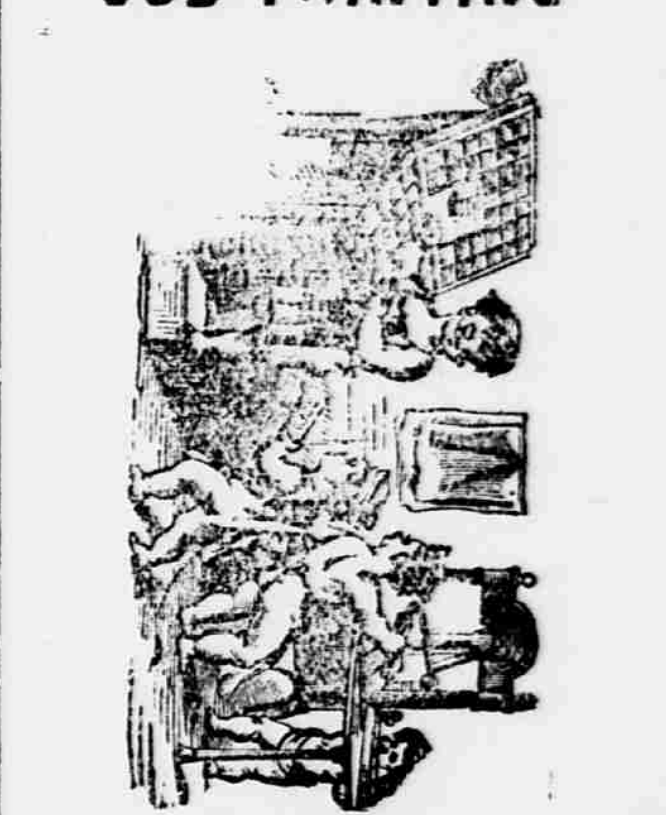
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